

244 and various vegetables are cultivated in the inland valleys. Cows, goats and other livestock are raised in the towns and the villages, but camels, goats and sheep are the mainstay of the Bedouin.

316 Ocher is mined on the offshore island of Bu Musa, but no other mineral deposits of commercial value are known to exist. The Petroleum Development (Trucial Coast) Ltd., a subsidiary of the Iraq Petroleum Company, holds concessions for the exploitation of the oil reserves of Trucial Oman, and is conducting exploratory operations in the area. The discovery of oil would undoubtedly have a revolutionary effect upon the economy and the standards of living of the people.

361 A large majority of the inhabitants dwell in the headquarters towns of the different sheikhdoms or in adjacent fishing or agricultural villages. Most of the towns are compact, with narrow, crooked streets, darkened by projecting balconies and matting canopies put up for protection from the sun. Dibai, the largest, is a walled town with an estimated population of over 20,000. Sharja, the second in size, is a settlement of 3,000 to 15,000 which is unwalled but surrounded by a fringe of palm thatch, or *barasti*, huts.

342 The homes of the wealthy merchants are of two stories with wide balconies and spacious inner courts, but those of the poor are usually simple one- or two-room huts of mud brick or palm thatch. The Bedouin live in the traditional black goat's hair tents of the nomadic tribes. They move about with their herds, following fresh pastures in the winter and congregating around desert wells in the summer. A few join the fishing or the pearling fleets during the summer season, while their families camp in the vicinity of the towns.

144 The nutritional habits of the people vary with the racial, the social and the economic backgrounds of the diverse communities. Poverty and lack of adequate transportation facilities restrict the foodstuffs available to a large percentage of the population.

262 Dates, breads prepared from wheat or mil-

existent. The local governments in Sharja and Dibai assume responsibility for the maintenance of quarantine stations under the supervision of the quarantine medical officer stationed at the British Residency for the Persian Gulf, at Bahrain. 744

There are few medical facilities. A 12-bed hospital, financed by contributions from local residents, was constructed at Dibai in 1951. The hospital and its out-patient clinics are administered by a British physician. At the same time, plans were under discussion for the opening of a hospital at 'Ajman under the direction of a Presbyterian mission doctor. 743

The Petroleum Development (Trucial Coast) Ltd. established a dispensary with 4 beds for emergency cases in connection with its drilling operations in 1949. It not only serves the employees of the company but furnishes some of the inhabitants in the area with treatment. Members of the staff of the Arabian Mission of the Reformed Church of America, in Muscat, make occasional medical tours to the Trucial Coast, usually working from temporary headquarters at Dibai.

DISEASES

Little is known regarding the prevalence of different diseases in Trucial Oman. The reports of medical observers are fragmentary, and the only statistics available are those from the oil company dispensaries, which cover selected groups of the population seen over a space of a few years. Under-nutrition and vitamin deficiencies are widespread, and are reputed to contribute to high mortality rates, particularly in young children. 164

DISEASES SPREAD OR CONTRACTED CHIEFLY THROUGH INTESTINAE OR URINARY TRACT

Amebic and bacillary dysentery are prevalent, as in other territories where the levels of sanitation are low and flies abundant. Typhoid fever is endemic, but epidemics are rare, since most individuals develop a 164 364

164 high degree of resistance as the result of
364 repeated exposure to infection. Enteritis
and diarrhea are responsible for a high
[165] mortality in infancy and early childhood.

164 Many persons harbor at least one species
of intestinal worms. Occasional cases of
tapeworm infection have been recorded,
but the species was not specified. Ancylos-
tomiasis and schistosomiasis are not known
to occur.

DISEASES SPREAD CHIEFLY THROUGH THE RESPIRATORY TRACT

164 Tuberculosis is a major problem, and, as
146 elsewhere, the poor nutrition, the over-
515 crowded living quarters and the unhygienic
362 habits of the people favor the spread of the
infection. Pulmonary tuberculosis appar-
ently predominates, but other forms of the
disease are frequent.

164 Pneumonia and influenza are prominent,
362 especially during the winter months, when
228 the palm thatch huts provide slight protec-
tion against the changeable weather condi-
tions. Respiratory infections are regarded
as an occupational hazard among the pearl-
ing crews.

164 Epidemics of smallpox are recurrent, and
a large percentage of the children show
pockmarks indicative of previous infection.
Measles, mumps, chickenpox and other res-
piratory diseases of childhood are endemic.

DISEASES SPREAD OR CONTRACTED CHIEFLY THROUGH CONTACT

Gonorrhea is widespread, and serious
complications due to local methods of treat-
ment are said to be numerous. Syphilis is
common, but the extent of infection is un-
certain. Cases of soft chancre also are re-
ported.

Trachoma is one of the most frequent
diseases in this area, affecting a large per-
centage of the population. Trichiasis, cor-
neal ulcers and other serious manifestations
of the infection are often seen. Conjuncti-
vitis is general: many cases probably are
infectious in origin, and all undoubtedly
are aggravated by the sand-laden winds.

63:Simmons et al G-8 (1941-1951) 1964

M1 Middle East

TRUCIAL GHAN MK4

The methods of sewage disposal are primitive; the levels of sanitation, low. The standards of nutrition generally are poor, but they vary among the different population groups. 364 196 ●

The distribution and the prevalence of specific diseases are not accurately known. Malaria, dysentery, trachoma, tuberculosis, helminthiasis, pneumonia and skin infections are prevalent. Syphilis and other venereal diseases are widely distributed. Outbreaks of smallpox are frequent. Typhoid fever, leprosy, sandfly fever, dengue fever, measles, mumps and the common respiratory infections are endemic. 164

p. 315(p)